

30 August 1956

Mr. John T. Campbell, Head
BBC Monitoring Service
Caversham Park
Reading, Berks.
England

Dear John:

This is in reply to your letter of 24 August 1956 concerning our problem of African coverage.

[redacted] and his crew have left Tangier and are cruising along the southern coast of Spain from where they will proceed to Sicily, Tunisia and possibly Tripoli before returning to Tangier. They expect to re-assemble in Tangier on or about 15 September. The plan is for [redacted], a cruising monitor, to visit Accra briefly, at which time they will contact Ian Wilson and possibly check out a few more frequencies and program schedules. They will then return to Tangier and [redacted] alone will go on to Asmara to do some checking on East African transmitters.

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Your Governor in the Gold Coast quite understandably had to take into account local susceptibilities, but I am confident that [redacted] will conduct themselves in such a fashion as to provoke no undue interest or concern. I believe that they will be able to assist Ian on the monitoring report and I think it is fortunate that both our Services will be represented there so that our next discussions at the Joint Coordination Committee meeting can deal with the question of providing coverage of West Africa more knowledgeably.

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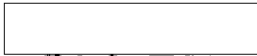
It is, of course, much too soon to forecast whether or not the money for West African coverage would be forthcoming from our budget people but in view of the very great interest from all sides in Africa, I think it is highly probable that at least a small inexpensive post would be approved, provided of course the monitoring potential is there. Having secured the approval and the money we would then seek your assistance in making proper representations to Her Majesty's Government, probably through diplomatic channels.

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Roger has written to you suggesting that the next meeting be postponed until December. I expect that the agenda for this meeting will be rather formidable in view of the many developments over the past eighteen months affecting our two services and, therefore, this extra time may be helpful. Roger will undoubtedly write to you soon on his ideas as to those subjects which need Committee consideration.

I hope that you and your family will have a splendid holiday. (And, do I detect an Americanism sneaking into your language in the form of referring to a holiday as "leave"?) Please give my very warmest personal regards to your wife and dear children.

Sincerely,


Chief, FBIS

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bcc: Chief, London Bureau

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24th August 1956

Dear Alan,

I have delayed replying to Roger's letter of June, and your subsequent signal, about the visit of your team to the Gold Coast, in the hope that I would be able to give you some reactions of our people here on the general problem of monitoring in Africa. So far, however, I have not been able to do this, so I am now writing in the nature of an interim reply.

I am very conscious of our joint difficulties in covering adequately the vital areas of Africa - particularly East Africa, in view of the probable increase of Cairo transmissions in local languages. I am still discussing this with our Colonial Office to see what can be worked out, but I foresee reluctance on the part of our Treasury to any material increase in the Monitoring budget. However, it is too early for me to be specific about this, and it is a matter which I very much want to discuss at the next joint meeting we have.

On receiving Roger's letter I set in motion a reception survey by Ian Wilson in Accra, designed to give us as much information as he could obtain as to reception conditions generally in the Gold Coast, and I will pass on any information I get when it comes to hand. The agreement to the visit of [] to Accra took, I am afraid, rather a long time to obtain, as the Colonial Office were not disposed to give their assent without reference to the Governor out there, who in turn had to take into account local susceptibilities. However, as you know, I was able to signal you that permission had been given for the visit, and no doubt [] will get in touch with Wilson when he arrives. I hope that he may find his visit profitable.

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In view of your changes in command, I am wondering about the proposed meeting we were to have in the fall, I very much hope that Roger will be able to come over about the time we originally

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planned, as I feel we have some matters which should be discussed between us before too long, including, of course, Middle East and African coverage. On my return from leave I will send a note of certain items for the Agenda, and no doubt you will also have matters to be raised.


With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,



J. T. Campbell
Head of Monitoring Service

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Chief FBIS,
2430 E Street, N.W.,
Washington 25, D.C.

JTC/JB

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Acra is a long way from Tangier and, therefore, we would like to gather all the information possible about reception conditions before considering a journey. I recall that during my last visit to Casablanca I was told that Ian Wilson was working in West Africa and I wonder if he is able to shed some light on our problem; or, if he is still there, if it would be possible to ask him to run a cursory reception survey, always assuming of course that there is complete agreement by your Government.

If a station in Acra were to materialize it is our belief that it might require a year or two of training to develop the monitors and to develop their languages to a point where they would be productive. Perhaps Wilson could furnish information about the availability of linguists capable of being trained as monitors also.

Any information you can provide will be greatly appreciated, and as for the timing we are still planning to get our team underway about the first week in July.

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[Redacted]
Acting Chief, FRIC

cc: Chief, London Bureau

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